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IU Law Dean Relinquishing Post

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Herald-Times IU News Bureau 3/25/84

Dean Sheldon J. Plager of the Indiana University School of Law at Bloomington today announced his intention to relinquish the deanship effective with the beginning of the fall semester in August.

PLAGER BECAME dean of the Law School in 1977. Before that he had been a law professor at the University of Illinois.

"I have had seven exciting and interesting years as dean. I had a part in bringing in more than half of the faculty and many of the staff," Plager said.

"It has been a wonderfully rewarding experience to see the school develop and blossom as it has."

The Indiana Legislature earlier this year authorized funds to complete the school's $12 million building project, begun in 1980, involving a major addition to and renovation of the existing Law Building.

Plager said that in recent years law school deans around the country typically have served less than four years.

PLAGER WAS educated at the University of North Carolina, University of Florida and Columbia University in New York. His fields of specialty are property and environmental law. He is engaged in a National Science Foundation-sponsored study of federal class action litigation, along with two other members of the law faculty including Professor Ilene Nagel, to whom he is married.

"I'VE HAD the benefit of wonderful support from the Trustees, from President Ryan and from Vice President Ken Gros Louis, and before him, Bob O'Neill. The commitment of our alumni, the hard work of our faculty and students have made these seven years not only possible but pleasurable. I look forward to continuing as a member of the IU family, and to being able to devote more of my time to my teaching and research."

Plager will be on leave of absence for part of next year before returning to resume duties as a professor of law. Associate Dean Maurice J. Holland has been recommended by Plager to serve as acting dean during the interim until a new dean is selected.

Gros Louis said, "Dean Plager served the school during a busy period in its history. In addition to his responsibilities for faculty development and his work with the design and funding of the new Law Building, Dean Plager worked closely with the university's Alumni Association and the IU Foundation in greatly expanding alumni programming and fund raising. He successfully led the school through its recent reaccreditation inspection by the American Bar Association, and has been a valued member of the campus administration."

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